

# Model ASEM 2014

8–12 October 2014 in Milan, Italy

*in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit  
“Responsible Partnership for  
Sustainable Growth and Security”*



## Chair’s Statement

### of the Model Asia-Europe Meeting 2014 (Model ASEM 2014)

8-12 October 2014, Milan, Italy

#### ***“Responsible Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Security”***

1. The Model Asia-Europe Meeting (Model ASEM) was held on 8-12 October 2014 in Milan, Italy. The meeting was attended by 118 Model ASEM Leaders, including the Heads of Student Delegations of 51 Asian and European countries, the Student Representative for the European Council, the Student Representative for the President of the European Commission and the Student Representative for the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The meeting was hosted by the Student Representative for the Prime Minister of Italy and chaired by the Student Representative for the President of the European Council.
2. Model ASEM Leaders warmly welcomed new ASEM partners, namely Croatia and Kazakhstan, who attended Model ASEM for the first time and who will be admitted to the ASEM process on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit on 16 and 17 October 2014 in Milan, Italy.
3. Under the overarching theme of the Model ASEM 2014 “Responsible Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Security”, Model ASEM Leaders engaged in comprehensive discussions, shared their perspectives on pertinent regional and

global issues of mutual interest, reflected upon collaboration between Asia and Europe in the three pillars of political, economic and socio-cultural domains plus public health, and agreed on the future direction of Model ASEM. Model ASEM Leaders affirmed the importance of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

4. Model ASEM Leaders reaffirmed the importance of Model ASEM as a dialogue forum for cooperation towards a common vision of the ASEM process.
5. Model ASEM Leaders noted with appreciation the fruitful outcomes of the previous five Model ASEM simulations organised by the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), held in 2004 and 2012 in Singapore, in 2007 in Manila (Philippines), in 2008 in Beijing (China) and in 2009 in Le Havre (France).

## **Strengthening Partnership in Global Political Matters through Asia-Europe Engagement**

### **Sustainable Development and Climate Change**

6. Model ASEM Leaders recalled their collective determination to work towards the sustainable management of resources, as outlined by the 17 Goals of the *“Outcome Document of the UN Open Working Group Sustainable Development Goals”*. Model ASEM Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment under the *“Rio Declaration on Environment and Development”*.
7. Model ASEM Leaders agreed to prioritise climate change mitigation and adoption. They emphasized the importance of responsible management of production and consumption of energy as a first priority to be implemented in Asia and Europe. Model ASEM leaders consider waste and water management as key issues that are of a high priority for the two regions and will work to find a mutual solution to it. They also agreed that the disaster and risk management towards ensuring sustainable development is the need of the hour to be addressed.

8. Model ASEM Leaders called for adoption of concrete mechanisms towards sustainable development such as expanding renewable energy resources, accelerating innovation and technology, investing in academic researches, improving waste management, optimisation of water supply, educating the general public and bridging development gaps through increased support by stronger partners as deemed necessary.

### **Human Rights**

9. Model ASEM Leaders reiterated the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in combination with the goals of “*The Future We Want*” Rio+20 Outcome Document, and confirmed their commitment to work towards promoting human rights, in accordance with both the emotional and physical needs, and their implementation.
10. Model ASEM Leaders encouraged, bearing in mind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both the private sector and NGOs to implement human rights in their practices and use their influential position to champion human rights at a public level.

### **Migration**

11. Model ASEM Leaders recognised that it is important to facilitate the legal migration flows between and within Asia and Europe and to communicate the opportunities and positive aspects of migration to foster cultural understanding and promoting economic growth.
12. Model ASEM Leaders expressed their deep concern regarding forced migration caused by imminent challenges, such as climate change, global warming and environmental degradation, as well as longstanding challenges, such as economic, political, and social causes.

13. Model ASEM Leaders urged for greater international cooperation and coordination in migration management and regulation at all governmental levels, including:

- a. Protection and promotion of human rights of migrants and their safety through coordinated transparent policy-making and legislation among nations of origin, transit, and destination;
- b. Coordination and improvement of migration checks among nations and ensuring assistance and protection of trafficked victims and the prevention of human trafficking by enhancing common knowledge and awareness for the effective fight against human trafficking; and preventing irregular means of migration by host and home countries.

## **Asia-Europe Cooperation in Fostering Economic Sustainability and Prosperity**

### **Promoting Economic Growth, Trade and Investment Facilitation**

14. Model ASEM Leaders underscored that business relations between Asia and Europe based on social and environmental responsibility, equitable employment practices, and fair wages are key prerequisites for mutual economic prosperity.

15. Model ASEM Leaders regarded SMEs to have a large potential in increasing economic growth and suggested that actions should be implemented among ASEM countries in order to promote creation of business, development and life-long activities. Responsible, environmentally friendly and socially conscious investment should be promoted throughout ASEM members. Financing and adapting technological innovation in SMEs, sharing experiences and knowledge and assisting developing countries in capacity building are all essential developments to enhance economic growth in all ASEM members.

## Promoting Asia-Europe Active Partnership in Common Socio-Cultural Issues

### Urbanisation

16. *Urban areas:* Model ASEM Leaders agreed that in the context of an unprecedented rate of urbanisation, sustainable, context-specific and socially justifiable practices need to be implemented for resilience. Priority areas include: infrastructure, social inclusion, a sustainable and secure use of scarce resources, higher living standards, a greater sense of community and mental and physical well-being.

*Rural areas:* Model ASEM Leaders emphasised the importance of these priority areas, and also for rural areas to maintain culture and attractiveness.

### Creative Economies

17. Model ASEM Leaders emphasised the significance of the creative industries in terms of job and wealth creation and for promoting sustainable development, social inclusion and local regeneration. Model ASEM Leaders believed that for the future development of ASEM members, diverse viewpoints have to be taken into consideration to foster sustainable and balanced living.

18. Model ASEM Leaders called for the foundation of an ASEM organisation to support creative industries in ASEM members which will prioritise the resourcing and exchange of consulting, training and incubation of creative organisations for prosperous development.

### Education and Skills Development

19. Model ASEM Leaders emphasised the importance of ensuring equitable, affordable and accessible quality education, including lifelong learning, as a vital component of sustainable growth across Asia and Europe. Model ASEM Leaders underlined the need to equip students and teachers with the competencies and

skills that match the requirements of fulfilment of individual talents in the contemporary and future labour markets for societal development. Model ASEM Leaders also called for taking measures to increase international interaction in the educational field, while respecting regional differences.

## **Synergising Technical Collaboration to Enhance and Safeguard Public Health across Asia and Europe**

### **Pandemic Influenza and Risk Communication**

20. Model ASEM Leaders expressed their deep concern about current public health preparedness to deal with future Pandemic Influenza or other global health threats, like the Ebola Virus. The Model ASEM Leaders underlined the need to intensify the development of trust and information sharing among governments and intergovernmental agencies. Modern technology and information systems are crucial to facilitate early disease detection and containment.

21. Model ASEM Leaders stressed importance of the International Health Regulations (IHR) as a framework to ensure coordinated management of potential international health threats and acknowledged the disparity of the IHR implementation between ASEM members. Therefore, more developed health systems should cooperate with lesser developed health systems to provide capacity building for the health care workforce and technology development, in accordance with previously agreed long term responsibilities. Additionally, international action in the case of a health threat should be promptly ensured so that countries feel compelled to report international health threats despite of potential economic losses.

22. Model ASEM Leaders stressed that education, clean water, sanitation, and vaccination must be considered as potential prevention tools for communicable diseases according to the World Health Organisation recommendations. The need to ensure access to proper vaccines is crucial in cases of pandemic diseases that are preventable through vaccination. Clean water supply and core minimum

hygiene precautions are needed to more effectively prevent diseases within communities.

## **Further Strengthening Youth Engagement within the ASEM Process**

23. Model ASEM Leaders underscored that the involvement of young leaders in the ASEM process is crucial in achieving fruitful, constructive and sustainable Asia-Europe partnership, effectively addressing future challenges in political, economic and socio-cultural domains.

24. Model ASEM Leaders recognised the significance of channelling the perspectives of young leaders across Asia and Europe and agreed that the strength of the Model ASEM is in voicing the perspectives of young leaders to the decision-makers involved in the ASEM process.

25. Model ASEM Leaders acknowledged the work of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) as an important contributor to establishing youth networks across Asia and Europe through projects, such as the ASEF University, aimed at mobilising young leaders.

26. Model ASEM Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enrich their communities by utilising the leadership and practical skills acquired at the Model ASEM 2014, to reinforce intercultural, interfaith and inter-racial understanding among the peoples of Asia and Europe.

## **Conclusion and the Future Direction of Model ASEM**

27. Model ASEM Leaders reaffirmed their mutual commitment to promote fresh and innovative strategies to sustainability through incorporating innovative approaches based on perspectives from young researchers from Asia and Europe.

28. Model ASEM Leaders welcomed the development of the Model ASEM event since its inception in 2004 and articulated their vision to establish the Model ASEM as the primary platform of Asia-Europe youth dialogue, in conjunction with the

biennial ASEM Summit in order to raise public awareness of the ASEM process. In addition, Model ASEM Leaders expressed their hope to formally handover the Model ASEM Chair's Statement via student representatives at the future ASEM Summits.

29. Model ASEM Leaders expressed their sincere appreciation to the Chair of Model ASEM 2014 for chairing the event, and the event organisers, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN) and Politecnico di Milano School of Management which made Model ASEM 2014 a successful project. Model ASEM Leaders looked forward to the upcoming Model ASEM 2014 spin-off activities and Model ASEM 2016.



## Appendix 1: List of Interested ASEM Members for Tangible Cooperation Areas

*Revised as of 11 October 2014*

No.	Areas of Tangible Cooperation	Names of Interested ASEM Members
1.	Sustainable development	Finland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
2.	Climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster management	Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Switzerland, Vietnam
3.	Human rights	Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom
4.	Migration	ASEAN Secretariat, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Netherlands, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Thailand
5.	Promoting economic growth	Australia, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, India, Kazakhstan, Malta, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia
6.	Trade and investment facilitation	ASEAN Secretariat, Bangladesh, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lao PDR, Luxembourg, Myanmar, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, Slovakia
7.	Creative economies	Czech Republic, Korea, Lao PDR, Lithuania, Netherlands, Russia
8.	Education and skills development	Austria, Brunei Darrusalam, Cambodia, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Myanmar, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore, Slovakia, Vietnam
9.	Pandemic influenza & risk communication	Croatia, Estonia, Russia